A Typical Rationalist Approach

E Book 76

Dear Readers,

HERE IS A SAMPLE OF Q's AND ANSWERS TYPICALLY DESCRIBING HOW THE RATIONALIST PERSONS OF HIGH REPUTE WRITE AND SPEAK ABOUT NAADI PREDICTIONS { FROM INDIAN SKEPTIC ISSUE - NOV 1996}

The comments and rejoinders are welcome.

One of the owner of Naadi Centers in Pune, happen to read the article recently and requested Wg Cdr Oak to pen down his comments to satisfy Naadi lovers who also get carried away by the propaganda created by these organizations in print and Electronic Media

From : G Eshwaran, Translator and owner of Naadi centers in Pune and Mumbai.

December 31, 2005

Dear readers,

Recently, I came to know that that a Naadi Lovers group is active on an Internet forum to cater to the needs of all Naadi Grantha enthusiasts. I am keen on sharing the information I have. Allow me to introduce myself. Since 1999, I have been overseeing two Naadi Centers in Pune and one in

Ambarnath, a suburb of greater Mumbai, dedicated to revered sages such as Agasthya, Kaushik, Vashishtha, Mahashiv, and many others. Moreover, for the past two years, I have in my possession the esteemed Jeeva (live) Naadi of Atri Maharshees, which has been read and interpreted by the highly devoted and knowledgeable Naadi reader, Shri. Vaidhyanathan Guruji.

Before getting involved with Naadi prediction, I was running a business as fashion Designer. Seven-eight years back, I got introduced to this prediction method by chance. As per the predictions, I was told that you are destined to get involved with this system as a profession. Soon, though reluctantly, I began to translate and record readings for the **benefit of some Non-Tamilian persons on friendly basis. Later I found interesting to work as full time job. I worked as a translator in many Naadi centers in Mumbai and Pune.**

My other brother named Krupanand is also in the same profession and is presently running a center in Dombivali East. Being brought up in Mumbai, I speak good deal of Marathi and Hindi. Thus I am a good link between Naadi center readers and their patrons in Tamilnadu.

I have had the privilege of knowing Wing Commander Shashikant Oak for the past five to six years as a devoted enthusiast of Naadi astrology. Through his publications in Marathi, English, Tamil, and Hindi, he has been unveiling the profound wisdom of revered sages such as Agasthya, Vashishtha, Shuk, Mahashiv, Kaushik, Kak Bhujander, Bhrugu, and many more.

I was recently informed by Wing Commander Shashikant Oak that certain information has been disseminated on the Internet by a publication known as 'Indian Skeptic' by Sri Basav Premanand. Mr. B Premanand, a prominent skeptic, is highly regarded as a steadfast rationalist of both national and international acclaim.

The article published in November 1996 by Shri B. Premanand adopts a question and answer format. Shri B Premanand responded to the

inquiries posed by Shri M. S. Risbud from Pune, a rationalist who delved deeply into astrology to expose its fallacies. Shri. Risbud made significant contributions to the book "Astrology – Science or Ego trip?" authored and edited by Shri. B. Premanand himself. Despite this collaborative effort, Shri. Risbud still harbored some uncertainties that he sought clarification on from Shri. B. Premanand. It appears that Shri. Risbud is not all that happy about the explanations given by Shri. B. Premanand.

Referring to the aforementioned article, it has come to my attention after a lapse of approximately 7-8 years. I would like to offer a response in the form of "my comments" to address some of the questions that have been raised. To facilitate clarity and coherence, I have taken the liberty of consolidating the questions and answers from the article. Additionally, I have included some of my own comments enclosed in bold for further elaboration.

Q by Shri. Risbud: 'The intriguing question is that how the names of the person appear on the strips? … '

Answer by Shri B. Premanand: After asking a few questions and getting my answers, he (Naadi reader) went inside and brought a palm leaf and read from it my past life which was 100% correct, but the reading was made on a wrong horoscope that of a lady doctor, who accompanied him.**(Shri B. Premanand in the article stated that he and the lady doctor played a trick of exchanging the horoscopes to confuse Naadi reader.)** Later it was found that their names and parents' names were there in the horoscope and the other details were collected through subtle questioning. The fact is that at the time of subtle questioning by the astrologers or by their stooges, who also sit amongst you as persons who have come to read their horoscopes the palm leaves are prepared. There is no need for astonishment in this as it is a simple trick, which is practiced by all astrologers to collect information and tell it as if they have found it by reading the horoscope.

My comments:

1) **In this particular article aimed at debunking the myth surrounding Naadi, precise details are crucial. Throughout the entire piece, specific dates, the name of the Naadi Center, and the reader remain conspicuously absent, with only the location of 'Salem' being disclosed.**

2) **In the South Indian tradition of Naadi astrology, the practice of leaf reading involves analyzing a person's thumb impression taken at the center during the consultation. The birth chart is only required if the individual desires to cross-reference the information on the leaf with that in the astrological chart. It is crucial to note that the process of obtaining the individual's thumb impression is not discussed in the article, despite its significance.**

3) **His critique of Naadi predictions is primarily derived from a solitary encounter at an undisclosed Naadi center, rendering it insufficient to serve as definitive evidence regarding the authenticity of the inscriptions on the palm leaves.**

Q: ‘When (lady doctor’s) name and her telling profession mentioned by him were correct, to me it makes no material difference if he had described her as a paediatrician instead of a gynec.’

Ans: It makes lots of difference, as the prediction was about her based on my horoscope, which has proved that his predictions are not based on stars or planetary positions. We had exchanged our horoscopes deleting our names and our parents’ name. We could not suppress our laughter as he was making prediction on my horoscope.

My comments:

4) **Mr. B. Premanand is excessively emphasizing his deceitful practices. Simply swapping horoscopes does not alter anything from the perspective of a Naadi reader. It is common for many**

individuals to carry thumb impressions of their loved ones. This does not imply that the predictions made during the reading are specific to the individual providing the thumb impression. When the correct leaf is discovered, it is inconsequential to the Naadi reader whether he is conducting the reading for the person who provided the thumb impression or for someone who is absent.

5) **In his response, he indicates that the names on their respective horoscopes were deleted. However, in a previous response, he mentioned that the names were extracted from the horoscopes. Please carefully review the highlighted sentence.**

Q: ' Instead of laughing at the astrologer, I would have astonished by his skills of fathoming these facts. Further on, you have mentioned that you snatched the palm leaf from the hands of astrologer and you did not find mention about the person who entered with sandals and desanctified the room. This means you were able to read the script and the language of the palm strip. If you were to decipher the contents of the palm leaves, then I will arrange to send you the photocopy of such strip which Mr. Oka **(Shri. Risbud is in habit of deliberately mentioning Wg Cdr 'Oak' as 'Oka' just to belittle him)** had sent to Dr. Jayant Narlikar, **(An Astrophysist decorated with Padma Vibhushna Award in 2004)** and which was displayed by Dr. Dabholkar **(Chairman of Superstition Eradication Committee, better known as Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti, in Marathi operating in Maharashtra for last 20 years)** {He was found killed by unknown assailants on 20 Aug 2013 in Pune - information edited in Jun 2024}, inviting Tamil knowing persons to read it.

Ans: If I get good photocopies of the palm leaf inscriptions, I can let you know what they contain. If I get the palm leaf, I could also check up their leaf by carbon dating to know its age. But you have no cared to send them.

My comments

6) Mr. B. Premanand has refrained from indicating whether he could decipher the script on the leaf independently. Evidently, he lacks the necessary expertise to recognize that the divination is rooted in the content inscribed on the leaf rather than the details obtained from the clients. There are sporadic references to incidents occurring during the reading process. For instance, an individual entering the room wearing sandals may be one such occurrence.

7) Mr. Risbud neglected to provide a copy of the photograph. He also deliberately evaded addressing the results of the same "photographs show" held in Pune on September 29, 1995, in the presence of over a hundred individuals, primarily members of Dr. Dabholkar's Superstition Eradication Committee and three Tamil-speaking individuals who inadvertently attended the event after reading about it in the local newspaper. This presentation was specifically arranged by Dr. Narendra Dabholkar to openly assert that the script on the palm leaf, claimed to be a Naadi leaf acquired from Dorai Subburathinam's Naadi center in Tambaram, is not TAMIL. More than 100 individuals, predominantly ardent supporters of Dr. Dabholkar, were present at the gathering. In front of media video cameras, everyone witnessed three Tamil-speaking individuals providing written statements and affirming on video camera that the script is indeed Tamil and, due to its ancient nature, is not easily decipherable in a conventional manner.

8) No Naadi center would willingly furnish leaf samples to organizations intent on disproving the legitimacy of Naadi leaf predictions at any cost. However, individuals of high integrity and genuine intent, such as Wg Cdr Shashikant Oak, have been granted permission by numerous centers to photograph the leaves associated with their own for the purpose of

examination and verification of the authenticity of the Naadi scriptures inscribed by the ancient sages.

9) It is perplexing that someone like Mr. B. Premanand, whose life's mission is to discredit astrological or other predictive methods, must await the opportunity to have the leaf in his possession. He then wishes to have the age of the leaf verified by an institute of his choosing. What is hindering him or other like-minded individuals or organizations from doing so? Let them approach the centers with reverence for the work of the ancient sages. They will not leave empty-handed.

Q: The age of any originals of the palm leaves cannot be more than 1700 years at the most. This is certain because Rishies are mentioned in the contents. Rishies came into use in our astrology after Shaka year 300 or so.

Ans: There are no originals of the palm leaves. It is prepared when a new customer comes, but it would look old through chemical treatment. But the age can be known by carbon dating.... That would help to prove the falsity of their claims.

My comments

10) It is pertinent to note that an individual by the name of Thomas Ritter from Germany conducted a carbon-14 test in a highly advanced laboratory in Germany. Additionally, he had the script deciphered by a specialist in his country. The results revealed that the leaf, upon testing, was determined to be at least 350 to 400 years old. A Tamil expert from a foreign country clarified that the content on the leaf is, in fact, divination in Tamil and not a religious scripture as previously thought. If a non-native individual could achieve such results, what is hindering the locals in India from doing the same?

11) The owners of the Naadi center persistently claim that the etchings on the palm leaves were last recorded during the rule

of Maratha King Sarfouji Maharaja of Tanjore around 300 years ago. This suggests that although the actual leaves may be relatively new, the information inscribed on them goes back to ancient eras. This statement is corroborated by the findings of the Carbon 14 analysis carried out in Germany.

Q: I wish to know this thing from you: You have mentioned that the Naadi astrologer told your past 100% correct. What explanation can you give for this. How did that fellow get all the information about you? In your article I did not find any answer.

Ans: The fact that you have not cared to read the article minutely**.** **(Shri B Premanand has scolded Shri Risbud at places for not having read his article minutely. Here is one such mention.)**

They are:

1. Later it was found that their names and their parents' names were in the horoscope and other details were collected through subtle questioning.
2. After asking a few questions and getting answers, he went inside and brought <u>a palm leaf</u> **(meaning unconnected by string in bundle)** and read from it my past life, which was 100% correct.
3. The fact is that at the time of subtle questioning by the astrologers or by their stooges who also sit amongst you as person who has come to read their horoscopes and the palm leaves are prepared and read. If you give wrong answer the reading will also be wrong. If you give another's horoscope as yours the reading will be on you and not on the horoscope if they have collected information about you. Except the names and your profession, most of the things they tell about you will not be on the palm leaf and what they read would generally prediction, which will be true to every one.

My comments

13. As mentioned previously, the identity of an individual is determined by their thumb impression (for men, the right hand; for women, the left hand), rather than their horoscope. Surprisingly, Shri. B Premanand has not addressed this issue. One would expect a rationalist like him to speak out against the inefficacy of using thumb impressions to ascertain the contents of the packet containing his unique thumb impression configuration.

14. His assertion that the Naadi reader retrieved a single palm leaf from within and recited details of a past life is entirely accurate. This scenario is implausible as the palm leaves are intricately connected by a thread running through all of them and encased within two wooden plates.

15. Shri. B. Premanand's fanciful notion that the leaf is crafted by writers from a central location within a so-called 'secret Room,' extracting information through subtle questioning and planted stooges, lacks any foundation. He has failed to provide any evidence to support this claim. On the contrary, as the guardian of all Naadi leaves in the center, I can confirm that while no one is allowed to observe the secret room at the Naadi center, Shri. B. Premanand could have easily discovered remnants of large piles of leaves outside the center and discarded leaf fragments in obscure corners. Some partially prepared leaves may also be present, awaiting chemical treatment. (I want to emphasize that, as the owner of the centers and someone familiar with the inner workings of the secret room, I can attest that neither the writing of leaves nor any leaf preparation activities, such as cutting, sorting, hole-making, or sharpening needle-like stylus pens for inscribing on blank leaf sections, take place.)

16. There are no hidden mysteries within the "Secret room" other than the meticulously arranged bundles. Naadi readers often stand or occasionally sit as they carefully select the appropriate bundle based on the specific thumb configuration required. In locations such as Pune or Mumbai, where the bundles are scarce, they are also stored in suitcases. I

can confidently attest on behalf of the Naadi centers that there is no fabrication of new leaves involved.

17. It has come to light that current Naadi readers have the ability to decipher the content on the leaves, however, they are unable to transcribe the information onto the leaves.

18. The practice of infiltrating agents among the crowd for information gathering purposes is particularly challenging beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu. To effectively engage in discreet questioning, one must possess an exceptional command of the Tamil language. While this strategy may have limited success within Tamil Nadu, it proves to be significantly more challenging across various regions of India due to linguistic barriers. Compounding the issue is the fact that the staff at the Naadi center are unfamiliar with the languages spoken by local visitors. Their reticence in conversing with visitors often leads to misunderstandings stemming from communication difficulties. Even those who attempt to establish rapport with the crowd risk standing out as stereotypical Tamilians.

19. It is important to bear in mind that visitors are discerning individuals who are wary of sharing personal information with strangers. In actuality, individuals seeking predictions for the first time are typically skeptical and exercise great caution when engaging with anyone from the center or other visitors. Furthermore, at Naadi center, we advise all visitors to refrain from divulging anything beyond a simple "Yes" or "No" as we commence the search for their leaf based on their thumb impression.

20. The current challenge faced by Naadi center proprietors outside Tamil-speaking regions is the difficulty in finding qualified individuals to communicate with waiting customers effectively. There is widespread discontent regarding the translation quality. These centers operate in densely populated urban areas, often in small one-bedroom apartments with limited privacy for conducting the confidential writing tasks. Additionally, obtaining the palm leaf stakes from distant locations poses an additional challenge. Suspicious neighbors could easily identify Naadi

readers if they observe them bringing fresh palm tree branches to acquire more leaves for writing purposes.

21. These hypothetical acts of writing on leaves and planting of agents do not occur due to lack of necessity. Naadi readers simply interpret the information contained in the leaves. However, individuals such as Shri B. Premanand, Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, and Dr. Jayant Narlikar refuse to acknowledge this truth. Consequently, they are compelled to defend themselves with elaborate fabrications. The concept of creating new leaves within the center for prospective clients is merely a theoretical argument put forth by skeptics. It is not that they are unaware of the weakness of their arguments, but rather they cannot come to terms with the extraordinary accuracy of Naadi predictions as it contradicts their predetermined scientific beliefs. Even if they were inclined to acknowledge the accuracy of Naadi predictions, they would be unable to do so publicly. Therefore, the rationalists have essentially lost the argument, yet they are unwilling to concede defeat in order to avoid the humiliation of having their rationalist organizations discredited and disbanded.

22. I would like to clearly state in writing that I am willing to undergo a thorough verification process, provided that it is overseen by a team of reputable scientists rather than individuals or groups who have previously dismissed Jyotish Shasta as nonsense and Naadi predictions as fraudulent and deceptive.

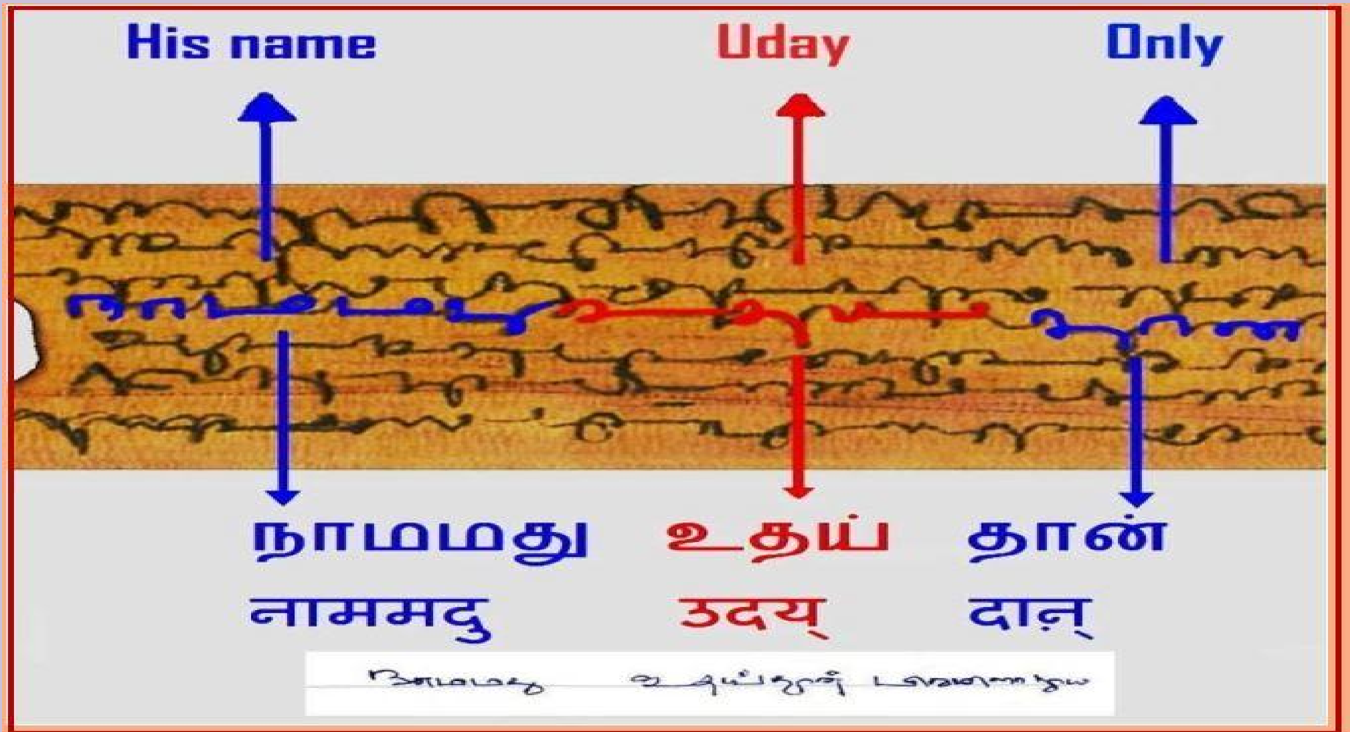
(As told by Shri. G Eshwaran to Wg Cdr Shashikant Oak)

[Owner Of Two Naadi Centers In Pune And One In Ambarnath - Suburban Outside Mumbai, G Eashwaran Ji Receiving The Boat Trophy At

Sri Eashwaranji, The Hands Of Shri Devale Ji, who Constructed The Mirror Temple Of Shirdi Saibaba.



Sample Photo How The Names Appear On The Naadi Palm Leaf



NoteBook Page -> A B C

Page: 1 of 4 Confirmation Data Assignment Close X

	A	B	C
1	ஓங்கார	பிரணவத்தின்	நாதமாகி
2	ஓதுதிக்கும்	உயிர்க்கெல்ல	பிண்டமாகி
3	தாங்குகிறாய்	இகமதனை	அர்த்தநாரி
4	தழலடியை	உன்மைந்தன்	சீடன்போற்றி
|| 1 ||			
1	போற்றிபுவி	செனித்ததொ	புநிதமைந்தன்
2	போகமிலா	தெளிவுபெற	பாக்கியம்தா
3	ஏற்றமதாய்	சொல்லமுடி	சாபமாகும்
4	இளையநிலா	பாவையுடன்	அறிவும்யோக
|| 2 ||			
1	யோகம்மேல்	கன்னியங்கள்	யூகம்புத்தி
2	யோக்கியமே	தெளிவுநிலை	தர்மசிந்தை
3	தேகதிட	சசிகாந்தும்	நாமம்ஏற்று
4	தெளிவுடனே	செனார்த்தன	விந்துதிக்க
|| 3 ||			
1	விந்துதிக்க	சுமந்தவளும்	மங்களாதான்

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A page of a notebook on the right side contains DTP work for a databank project focused on Indological study conducted by Tamil language experts.



A high-resolution image of a Naadi Palm Leaf obtained from a reputable media source. Translated into English.